

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-11 SCEM-02 INT-08

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 SCI-06 /192 W

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R 071730Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5808

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONGEN LUANDA

C O N F I D E N S I A L KINSHASA 10580

1. ZAIRE PURCHASES CRUDE FROM IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WHICH IS LOCALLY REFINED AND WHICH COMPRISES 50 PERCENT OF COUNTRY'S POL REQUIREMENTS. OTHER 50 PERCENT ARE IMPORTED AS REFINED PRODUCTS FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES INCLUDING THE DUTCH ANTILLES. THERE ARE FOUR POL DISTRIBUTING FIRMS IN ZAIRE; TEXACO AND MOBIL ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 30-35 OF ZAIRE'S TOTAL REQUIREMENTS, WHEREAS SHELL AND FINA FOR THE BALANCE.

2. JPL AVIATION FUEL SUPPLIES (SAME AS KEROSENE USED BY LOCAL CONSUMERS) ARE DWINDLING RAPIDLY. AIRLINES HAVE BEEN CUT BY 30 PERCENT THEIR NORMAL REQUIREMENTS, WHICH IS TO BE INCREASED TO 50 PERCENT BY END DECEMBER. IN A MEETING WITH FOUR MINISTERS DECEMBER 3, OIL COMPANIES WERE STRONGLY URGED TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES.

3. BECAUSE OF INCREASED LOCAL DEMAND FOR OTHER POL PRODUCTS SUCH AS DIESEL AND GAS OIL, OIL COMPANIES IN ZAIRE HAVING DIFFICULTY GETTING GOZ TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM. TENDENCY IS TO BLAME SITUATION ON OIL COMPANIES WHICH DETERMINE ALLOCATIONS AVAILABLE POL

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PRODUCTS. BECAUSE OF BAN ON ARAB EXPORTS TO US

AND THE NETHERLANDS, BELIEF HELD HERE THAT POL PRODUCTS DESTINED FOR ZAIRE DIVERTED BY MANIPULATING OIL COMPANIES TO OTHER TWO COUNTRIES.

DETERIORATING LOCAL SITUATION BROUGHT TO ATTENTION BISENGIMANA IN OCTOBER. A COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED INCLUDING FOUR MINISTERS AND ALL LOCAL OIL REPRESENTATIVES. THREE MEETING HELD WITH COMMISSION LAPSING INTO LETHARGY.

5. GOZ MINISTER ASSUMING THAT PROMISES MADE TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU AT RECENT ALGIERS CONFERENCE WOULD SUPPLY ZAIRE WITH SUFFICIENT POL PRODUCTS TO MEET COUNNRY'S REQUIREMENTS.

6. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS ON PETROLEUM SITUATION FOLLOWING DECEMBER 7 REGULAR MEETING WITH MOBUTU PRESIDING. SHORTAGES EXIST, BUT MOBUTU TAKING PERSONAL CHARGE AND SITUATION WILL SOON RETURN TO NORMAL. SHORTAGES STEM FROM FACT THAT ZAIRE'S OWN REFINERY SERVES ONLY HALF ITS NEEDS. OTHER HALF SUPPLIED BY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WHICH HAVE DELIBERATELY DIVERTED PRODUCTS. WHILE IT UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THESE COMPANIES CHOSE TO SERVE INTERESTS OF THEIR OWN COUNTRIES FIRST, GOZ WILL NOT FORGET LESSON TO BE LEARNED FROM THIS.

7. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES, IF ARABS ACTUALLY APPLY OIL EMBARGO TO ANGOLA, PORTUGAL MAY STOP POL SHIPMENTS DESTINED TO ZAIRE VIA LOBITO. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT GECAMINES COPPER PRODUCTION.

8. WHEN AMBASSADOR SAW BISENGIMANA DEC. 2 HE MENTIONED POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT ALONG LINES PARA. 7. BISENGIMANA SEEMED TO BE WELL AWARE OF SITUATION AND DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ALARMED. NEWLIN

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